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Urban District of Kenilworth

*Warwick*

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1959

BY

D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts

Leamington Spa

A. TOMES LTD., PRINTERS, 46, BEDFORD STREET

1960





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38, HOLLY WALK,  
LEAMINGTON SPA.  
January 12th, 1961.

**To the Kenilworth Urban District Council**

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

During 1959 there was a rise in population comparable to that which took place in the previous year ; once again new immigration was responsible for the greater part. This continues the trend for the town's population to contain a preponderance of younger age groups and to have a higher birth rate than the standard. The weather was, in contrast to 1958, dry and hot for long periods during the summer. As a result of this and your sewer cleansing programme taken last year there was less serious flooding : there was, however, some sewer surcharging after heavy rain on 22nd January, 1959.

During the year fresh figures became available from analysis of air samples taken from instruments sited in the town. These showed that smoke pollution figures (in winter) were a little above the county average whereas sulphur dioxide levels were about the average. By implication a substantial part of air pollution in the district originated in the domestic fire grate. Therefore a phased programme of smoke control areas could if undertaken, be of much benefit in cleaning the town's air. It may be asked why one should worry about something which is near or not much above the average. Therefore it is desired to point out that the county average is weighted by the inclusion of many readings taken in mining or industrial areas. Therefore a residential district may well set its sights upon a normal target smaller than the average pollution figure for a whole county. When the figures are studied for the period July 1958—March 1959 it can then be seen that Kenilworth's pollution was below average for the county. This again fits into a pattern where domestic smoke is the major pollutant as few of these fires are regularly lit during the July-September quarter. The overall figure is thus below average whereas that for the winter period only may exceed it.

Substantial use was made of the Whitemoor Road Brickworks site for refuse disposal. Work was made easier by the acquisition of an industrial tractor of 48-inch gauge with slotted 13-inch grouser shoes modified for tipping work and



fitted with hydraulic angle-dozer. It was also decided that householders may have litter collected by request. This may lessen temptation to deposit litter surreptitiously along highway verges. In September the Surveyor submitted a report upon the need to extend or improve certain sewer services to cope with expected land developments in the west of the town. The report was received and instructions given for the preparation of a detailed scheme. A scheme was also sent to the Ministry of Works for new conveniences at the Castle. These can be entered both from within and without the guardianship area. Repairs were also effected at two existing public conveniences elsewhere. As no suitable applicant could be found to act as rodent operator, a neighbouring council was approached but it proved impossible to work out a joint scheme for rodent control. Later in the year an operator was engaged and a satisfactory start made to overtake arrears of the work.

Opposition was expressed to the local government commission regarding proposals by the City of Coventry to extend its boundaries towards Kenilworth. Examination of the new grant system made it appear that an increase would be necessary in order to provide for county and district services and the Finance Committee requested an increased rate of 1s. 4d. Important elements in this sum were :

- (a) the cost of the new sewer and
- (b) essential modifications at the sewage disposal works.

I have again enjoyed the kindness and help of the entire Council and the support and co-operation which the Surveyor, Mr. Sillifant and fellow officers invariably give to me. It is a pleasure to give thanks to all concerned.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. LIVINGSTONE,

Medical Officer of Health.

# Kenilworth Urban District

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## A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	5,967 acres
No. of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	4,108
Product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£678
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£167,720
Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1958	...	...	...	...	...	13,430
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	(Crude)	...	...	...	...	15.9
	(Corrected)	...	...	...	...	14.7
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Death Rate per 1,000 population	(Crude)	...	...	...	...	8.6
	(Corrected)	...	...	...	...	10.6
Deaths from Diseases and	}	From Sepsis	...	...	...	—
Accidents of Pregnancy and		From other causes	...	...	...	—
Child-birth						
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—						
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	23.4
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	19.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live						
births	...	...	...	...	...	100
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	—

The population has increased by 410 persons. The natural increase (*i.e.* excess of births over deaths) was only 98.

Statistics for England and Wales are shown at the foot of Table II.

## B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

1. *Public Health Officers.*—The Staff is as follows :—  
One combined post.—Surveyor, Water Engineer and Chief Public Health Inspector.

One Assistant Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

2. *Public Health Laboratories.*—The Public Health Laboratory at Stoney Stanton Road, Coventry examine specimens submitted in the course of local investigations. Routine examinations are also made of water, milk, ice-cream, etc. Thanks are due to Dr. J. M. Whitehead and his associates for the significant help given throughout the year under review.

An Infant Welfare Centre is held at the Clinic, Station Road, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-0—4-0 p.m.

Local enquiries regarding Home Help, After-care, Health Visiting, Domiciliary, Nursing and Midwifery Services to Area Health Office, 38, Holly Walk, Leamington Spa ('Phone 2998 and 2999). National Welfare Foods are distributed at points in the district, details of which have been publicly advertised.

*Ambulance facilities.*—The County Council's Ambulance Depot at Lakin Road, Warwick (Telephone No. Warwick 86) serves the urban district.

*Hospital services.*—Maternity cases may be admitted to the Warneford hospital. Tuberculosis is treated at Hertford Hill Sanatorium and the Central Hospital, Hatton treats patients with mental illness.

*District Nursing, Domiciliary Midwifery and Health Visiting.*—These services of the local health authority are administered on behalf of the Central Area Health Subcommittee from the Area Health Office in Leamington Spa. The staff available in the County services for Kenilworth and district at the end of 1959 was as follows :—

District Nurses	...	...	...	...	2
District Nurse Midwives			...	...	3
Health Visitors	...	...	...	...	3

## C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

1. *Water Supply.*—The water supply to the area has been augmented by the installation of a pump to the Birmingham Road Borehole. The plant consists of a submersible pump placed at the level of some 300ft. below the pump house floor in a borehole 571 feet deep. Before being brought into use, the pump was run on test, and was actually brought into commission on the 13th May, 1959. It has been working almost continuously since that time pumping about 100,000 gallons per day.

The three borehole pumps at your Mill End Pumping Station operated satisfactorily until October, when vibration periods were observed in the Mather & Platt pump in the No. 1 borehole. On the manufacturer's advice, the pump was lifted and it was found that there could not be a satisfactory reinstatement. This pump, which was the smallest of the three, gave a yield of 8,000 gallons per hour. Upon the Council's instructions, data was collected with a view to obtaining a new pump capable of yielding 12,000 gallons per hour.



I am pleased to say that the Harland pump in No. 2 borehole, and the Pulsometer pump in No. 3 borehole, have worked satisfactorily throughout the year ; the former with a yield of some 12,000 g.p.h., and the latter with a yield of some 13,000 g.p.h.

New water main extensions have been made in Park Hill, Southfield Drive, in 3in. pipes ; Finham Road, Blackthorn Road, Thornby Avenue extension, Farmer Ward Road, Spring Lane housing estate, and St. John's Street in 4in. pipes ; Borrowell Lane and Brookside Avenue in 6in. pipes. Six new meter supplies were provided, and 163 new services. Main repairs were necessary in twelve instances, and service repairs totalled 33.

The total amount of water pumped during the year was : from Mill End Pumping Station 197,830,000 gallons, and from Birmingham Road 21,248,000 gallons. This gives an average of 601,862 gallons per day, which shows a great increase on any previous year, the increase over the previous year being 209,197 gallons per day ; an increase of well over 50 per cent. This increase has no doubt been to a considerable extent due to the very dry summer and the large amount of building work going on in the district.

The number two and three boreholes were very heavily committed during the year, and the water level ranged in the No. 2 borehole from 40ft. at rest and 79 feet whilst pumping, to 38 feet at rest and 86 feet whilst pumping, a maximum depression of 7 feet ; and in the case of the No. 3 borehole, which is the one giving the higher yield, from 38 feet at rest and 92 feet during pumping, to 44 feet at rest and 98 feet during pumping, a maximum depression of 6 feet. It is very satisfying that the boreholes have been able to cope with such a yield, but if the demand continuously increases, it will soon be necessary to acquire additional sources of supply.

Forty specimens of raw water were taken for bacteriological analysis. The results were satisfactory, and showed that the high standard of purity has remained constant. Two specimens were taken for chemical analysis, one of which was from the Birmingham Road borehole.

The results expressed in parts per million are as follows :—

Received on 11th November, 1959.

From G. A. J. Edmundson, Esq.

Description : Water from main pipe supply at Council House, Kenilworth, 11-0 a.m., 10/11/59.

Appearance : Bright, some large particles.

Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	0
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.013
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	25.0
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	12.0
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at				
27° C. in 4 hours	...	...	...	0.2
Total Solids dried at 100° C.	...	...	...	480
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	Absent
pH	...	...	...	7.55
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	Absent
Radioactivity	...	...	...	—

The above results show that this water is organically of satisfactory quality and, subject to satisfactory bacteriological examination, suitable for use as a public supply.

Received on 12th February, 1959.

From G. A. J. Edmundson, Esq.

Description : Sample from new borehole at Birmingham Road, 11 a.m., 11/2/1959.

Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0.046
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.064
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	26.5
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	...	...	...	1.5
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at				
80° F. in 4 hours	...	...	...	0.2
Total Solids dried at 100° C.	...	...	...	340
Nitrite	...	...	...	0.002
pH	...	...	...	7.35
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	Absent
Appearance :	Bright, few small particles.			

The above results show that this sample is organically of good quality.

Practically the entire population is served by a piped water supply ; only isolated properties in the rural area of the district having to rely upon their own wells.

The maintenance of the pumping stations and the general waterworks equipment have been kept at the usual high level by Mr. Hacking, your new Waterworks Superintendent. He commenced his duties with you in November of the previous year.

2. *Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works.*—In this year 31 stoppages were removed from the sewers, and sewer scraping and cleaning was continued. Sewer scraping was concentrated on the length from The Close to Dalehouse



Lane, including Stoneleigh Avenue, and Mill End, and resulted in the removal of 14 tons of silt.

A surface water drain was laid in Windy Arbour and Leyes Lane in connection with the new development there. Additional gullies and road offlets were provided, in Barrow Road, Warwick Road, Red Lane, Crackley Lane, Beehive Hill and Rouncil Lane.

Excessive rainfall occurred on the 7th January, 1959 when there was 1.05in. and on the 22nd January when 0.90in. was recorded. On this last occasion there was very considerable flooding throughout the district. Sewers surcharged in Warwick Road, Malthouse Lane, de Montfort Road and Clinton Lane. Other points of flooding occurred in Rouncil Lane, on land near the Railway near Clarendon Road, Birmingham Road near Chase Lane, and at Redfern Manor. All were caused by water running off the fields onto the highway. The flooding in Warwick Road, which occurred south of the junction with Leamington Road, was due to the insufficient capacity of the existing branch sewer, and as the result of this matter being reported to you, the surveyor received instructions to prepare a scheme to overcome this difficulty.

The new sewer which came into operation the previous October has worked satisfactorily, and has relieved the newly built up area sewers considerably. Twenty-six houses were connected to this new sewer in Birches Lane and Glasshouse Lane during the year, and other connections were made in Dalehouse Lane and Leyes Lane.

As a result of your instructions, tenders were invited for auxiliary sewers to deal with the additional development and the flooding difficulties previously described.

At the Sewage Disposal Works, to enable an easier distribution of surface water about the site, a system of timber troughs was brought into operation. These, as a temporary expedient, proved satisfactory. During the early part of the year new sprinkler arms were fitted to one of the filters. In August, the Contractors commenced work on cleaning out the areas prior to the main structural work being put in hand.

The maintaining of the Disposal Works in a suitable state and capable of dealing with the effluent presented a difficult problem, which will remain until the new works are completed.

Gully emptying is still carried out by contract as in previous years, and the street gullies are emptied quarterly.

Cesspools, which are now rare in the district, are emptied by private arrangement between the gully emptying firm and the people concerned.

3. *Rivers and Streams*.—The water course which crosses Spring Lane and Stoneleigh Avenue has been cleaned out twice during the year. In Birmingham Road and Red Lane the water courses have also been cleaned, and similar work has been done to the Ford in Rouncil Lane.

4. *Public Cleansing*.—Every effort has been made to maintain a weekly collection of house refuse. This is done with the exception of occasional periods where delay is caused through mechanical break-downs. In May this year you purchased a second rear-loading vehicle, which has helped considerably to cope with the increasing population.

The disposal of house refuse by controlled tipping has continued at the Whitemoor old brickworks site. Much work has been required here, part of which has been in making a proper traffic approach to the lower level of the pit, and part in pumping water from the areas next to be used. During the year you purchased a tracked mechanical vehicle in order to cover the house refuse with soil and level off in layers. This has done very much to reduce the possibility of complaints, and the tip is being maintained in a very satisfactory condition.

#### D. HOUSING

Number of houses built by :	1959	1958	1957
(a) Local Authority ... ..	—	9	31
(b) Private enterprise ... ..	215	91	134
Total number of completed houses owned by the Council ... ..	741	741	756
Total number of prefabricated houses owned by the Council ... ..	50	50	50
Houses converted into flats, maisonnettes, etc. and into 2 houses ...	—	—	8
Number of demolition orders made	23	—	—
Number of houses demolished ...	—	—	—
Number of houses demolished and owned by the Council ... ..	—	24	16
Closing of unfit houses ... ..	—	1	15
Number of unfit houses made fit :			
(a) by Official Notices ... ..	—	—	—
(b) informally ... ..	41	38	49

Work was commenced in June on a contract for 18 houses and 10 flats. The work consisted of 14 three-bedroom houses in one pair and three blocks of four on the Dalehouse Lane Estate, together with one block of 10 flats ; four one-bedroom and six two-bedrooms, on the same estate ; and a block of four three-bedroom houses at Oaks Road. The 15 one-bedroom flats at St. John's Street are nearly completed. During the year all your remaining houses not so equipped were provided with electric light and power throughout.

*The Rent Act, 1957.*—During the year 3 applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair. Each of these were thoroughly investigated and considered on their merits. Notices of proposal to issue certificates of disrepair were issued and landlords gave undertakings to carry out the specified repairs in 2 cases. In addition 10 certificates as to the remedying of defects were issued.

*Improvement Grants.*—A number of applications were received for grant towards improvements under the Housing Acts, 1949, 1954 and 1957, and grants were made in respect of 20 properties. Most of the work was completed during the year.

## **E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

(a) *Milk Supply.*—Registrations under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 to 1954 are 13. Four Supplementary Licences were issued to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk and four Supplementary for Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk. Four dealers' licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk and six for Pasteurised Milk have been issued, and the normal regular inspections of such premises are made throughout the year.

(b) *Ice Cream.*—There is a total of 45 premises registered under Section 16(a) Food and Drugs Act, 1955. There are no manufacturers in the district.

(c) *Preserved Food.*—Eleven premises are registered under Section 16(b) Food and Drugs Act, 1955. The work of food preparation in this district is carried out under suitable conditions.

During the year 462 visits have been made to private slaughterhouses in the district for the purpose of meat inspections.

The following is the statistical information with regard to the inspection of meat :—



# MEAT INSPECTION.

YEAR 1959

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	412	78	77	5032	1444	None
Number inspected ...	412	78	77	5032	1444	None
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i> ... Whole carcasses condemned	None	None	None	6	3	None
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ... ..	122	36	None	169	56	None
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysti- cerci ... ..	29.6%	46.1%	None	3.4%	4.1%	None
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i> Whole carcasses condem- ned ... ..	None	None	None	None	None	None
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ... ..	1	6	None	None	14	None
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	0.25%	7.79%	None	None	0.97%	None
<i>Cysticercosis :</i> Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ... ..	1	1	None	None	None	None
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion ... ..	1	1	None	None	None	None
Generalised and totally condemned ... ..	None	None	None	None	None	None

All meat found to be unfit is transported to premises in Rouncil Lane. During the year the method of handling meat has been satisfactory.

(d) *Other trades*.—Premises where food is prepared or sold have been inspected and reasonable conditions were found. In January, 1959, a complaint was made to the Public Health Inspector of a beetle alleged to have been found in soup powder. No infestation was found to exist upon the premises of the Vendor and it therefore appeared that, if there had been any contravention at all, it would have been within the scope of Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Accordingly the matter was referred to the appropriate officer of the County Council which is the Food and Drugs authority for Kenilworth.

Similar action was taken in the following month in regard to a malt loaf alleged to have been sold which included fragments of metal.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955, SECTION 31

Tuberculous Milk Investigation—only one Routine Milk Sample for biological examination during the year 1959 was taken by officers of the County Council within the district with the following result :—

<i>Designation of Milk</i>	<i>Total No. of Samples</i>			<i>No. Positive</i>
Pasteurised ... ..	...	...	—	—
“ Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ” ... ..	...	...	4	—
“ Tuberculin Tested ” ... ..	...	...	5	—
Non-Designated ... ..	...	...	—	—

## F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

*Incidence of Major Infectious Diseases since 1952*

		Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Anterior Poliomyelitis	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1952	...	—	10	—	10	—	—
1953	...	—	1	1	3	5	—
1954	...	—	—	—	2	—	1
1955	...	—	4	—	9	—	—
1956	...	—	—	—	4	—	1
1957	...	—	1	—	3	5	1
1958	...	—	1	—	—	—	5
1959	...	—	—	—	—	—	—

Reference to Table III will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1959.

This year was again noteworthy for the small total of most notifiable infectious diseases. A few cases of scarlet fever were notified and several reports of dysentery came in. Apart from these there was little of note other than some prevalence of measles. Not a single person required admission to an isolation hospital during the year.

*Diphtheria Immunisation.*—The figures were :—

			1957	1958	1959
Schoolchildren	...	...	21	21	11
Infants and children under 5 years	...	...	141	225	190
Total	...	...	162	246	201
Booster doses (all ages)	...	...	66	190	170

*Diphtheria Immunisation.*—Response fell some way short of the figures for 1958 although more babies were born in the district. In the past a high level of protection has been maintained by the personal efforts of health visitors, doctors and other persons, although few of the public have had any practical acquaintance with this disease. As it is no longer



prevalent, one cannot expect that many children will now possess natural or active immunity on the scale formerly found. The experience of places where recent epidemics have arisen is a clear warning that the disease can strike and spread quickly in these circumstances. Also it may still assume serious forms which are hard to treat. Therefore it is more than ever important that every child should be immunized in its first year of life. Parents who neglect to see to this are taking grave risks with their child's future.

As a combined antigen is available, which also serves to protect against Whooping Cough, a large number of children have at the same time been immunized against this disease without the need for additional injections. It is probably that a triple vaccine, including also Tetanus antigens, will come into use as from April, 1960.

### TUBERCULOSIS, 1959

Age Periods	New Cases				Transfers into District				Deaths			
	Pul- monary		Non- Pul.		Pul- monary		Non- Pul.		Pul- monary		Non- Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25-35	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	11	—	—	1	4	1	—	1	—	1	—	—

The figures for new cases exceed those for the past two years but are not greatly above average for the last decade. Only one death occurred from this cause.

#### Prevention—B.C.G. (Contact Scheme)

12 persons were inoculated with B.C.G. Vaccine (6 less than last year) because of a special risk.

**B.C.G. (Scholar's Scheme)**

This was the first year of the scheme, newly introduced to county schools, whereby 13-year-old children had Heaf tests of skin sensitivity to tuberculin. Negative reactors were subsequently given an intradermal injection of B.C.G. vaccine. Both procedures were carried out by doctors approved by the County Medical Officer as possessing suitable experience of the method. Vaccination was of course subject to parental consent. It is not possible to give a comprehensive return for all children in this age group who are resident in Kenilworth. The figures of work done at Kenilworth schools are however given below.

<i>Year of Birth</i>	<i>No. skin tested</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Total given B.C.G. Vaccine</i>
1946	85	13	72	70
1945	32	4	28	27

Nearly all negative reactors accepted subsequent vaccination. Arrangements exist for X-ray and follow-up of any child giving a strongly positive reaction to the test.

*Tuberculosis.*—The following table shows the cases notified, and deaths for the past 20 years :—

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Cases ...	19	14	11	9	10	9	9
Deaths...	4	8	5	2	3	1	3
	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Cases ...	4	1	14	3	3	13	15
Deaths...	6	2	3	—	3	2	1
	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	
Cases ...	15	13	15	5	6	12	
Deaths...	—	—	—	2	1	1	

*Treatment.*—7 patients were admitted to the Sanatorium for treatment during the year, and 5 were discharged.

1 death occurred and the notifications almost entirely related to males.

**CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956**

Early in the year it was found necessary to move the volumetric instrument used at Arthur Street but the new site was closely comparable to the old. In July a special report was received from the Technical Sub-committee of the Warwickshire Clean Air Council which had been asked to

advise the district council upon the degree and nature of atmospheric pollution in the Whitemoor Road area.

The main points from this report are :—

1. Topography reduced the effective height of the brickworks chimney but this was offset partly by the velocity of the emergent hot gases.
2. Maximum concentration of sulphur dioxide gas would be expected in a zone between 500 and 1,200 feet from the source ; existing formulae indicated probable concentrations of from 0.8 to 1.1 parts per million. Taking 0.97 as the average figure this might be compared with the 1952 smog figures for London which were of the order of 1.3 parts per million daily.
3. Analysis of instrument samples taken near the Brickworks appeared to show that there was an excessive sulphur dioxide concentration from a particular source in this locality. While daily instruments at the Council House and Arthur Street were giving similar smoke readings the latter indicated a Sulphur dioxide level some 50% higher. Monthly lead peroxide candle estimations gave similar indications as regards Sulphur dioxide gas.
4. Only new chimneys are subject to section 10 of the Act. There is no legal provision for dealing with existing chimney heights. Nevertheless, if it were possible to have an additional 20 feet of stack height it should approximately halve the Sulphur dioxide maximum concentration in the above-mentioned zone.



## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

In no case was it necessary to operate the provisions of sections 47 and 50 of this Act during 1959.

### REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

*To the Chairman and Members of  
The Kenilworth Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I am pleased to present my 23rd Annual Report as your Public Health Inspector for the year ending 31st December, 1959.

During this year there has been a large amount of private housing development entailing the preparation of schemes for additional water and water mains and sewers, and bringing still new problems in relation to surface water drainage. Plans were prepared and consideration given to a further housing contract at your Dalehouse Lane Estate, and at Oaks Road, involving a total of 18 houses and 10 flats, and plans are also in hand for Old People's bungalows and flats on your present estates.

Your water supply was augmented by the Birmingham Road Borehole being brought into operation, and this has worked continuously and satisfactorily since it was installed.

New schemes are being prepared both for watermain extensions and for further auxiliary sewers to cope with the development, which is quite extensive having regard to the size of Kenilworth.

The Sewage Disposal Works modifications commenced during the year and the completion of this work will be a very great help in the future maintenance of the town's services.

The sewer cleaning which was done in the previous year has also helped very materially in reducing flooding, and only in one or two isolated cases in very excessive weather has flooding occurred.

I cannot conclude without again expressing my very sincere thanks and appreciation to all the members of the staff serving in the Department for their loyalty and co-operation, to Dr. Livingstone for his tolerance and help at all times, and to the Members of the Council for the many little acts of assistance which they have always given, both individually and collectively, during my term of office.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. A. J. EDMUNDSON,  
Public Health Inspector.

### Nuisances

The usual visits and inspections have been made in connection with reported nuisances. Without exception these have been satisfactorily dealt with by informal notice and no special problems have arisen. There is little doubt that work in connection with Certificates of Disrepair has done much to improve the general standard of repair in rent controlled properties.

## **Infectious Diseases**

No notifications were received of Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever during the year. Details of other cases are given by the Medical Officer of Health in another part of this report.

## **Disinfection of Premises**

Disinfection is carried out upon instructions from the Medical Officer of Health in respect of such cases, and supplies of disinfectant are given free. Disinfection is also carried out on request in serious cases.

## **Drainage and Sewerage**

Defects in the drainage system caused by stoppages numbered 31. A certain amount of sewer scraping was done, which had been extensive during the previous year, and undoubtedly there would have been more flooding in the district but for this work. As it was, there was flooding in January throughout the area owing to very excessive rainfall, and on this occasion the flooding was very extensive with fields in many cases submerged under water.

The Sewage Works modifications have been commenced, and the completion of this work will assist very much in the avoidance of the nuisance at present being caused through insufficient treatment at the existing Works.

## **Public Cleansing and Salvage**

Throughout the year mechanical sweeping has continued, and the conditions of the streets in the town have been more satisfactorily maintained. Hand sweeping has still to be employed, mainly for the purpose of cleaning footpaths and attention to weeding. Grass verges, of which there are considerable areas, are mechanically cut, this having been brought into operation this year. There is already an improvement in their appearance, and this improvement will no doubt continue.

House refuse collection and disposal has been satisfactorily maintained. Your two vehicles maintain a weekly collection with the exception of holiday and break-down periods. Some uniformity in dustbins is being gradually attained through people hiring bins from the Council on an annual maintenance fee. The number of bins maintained by the Local Authority, including those of your own properties, is approximately 1,390.

The house refuse collection is still maintained on a bonus basis, which has assisted considerably in keeping up the standard of collection.

The disposal site is at the old brickworks at Whitemoor Road, and its satisfactory maintenance is due to the mechanical means of levelling coverage now employed. Much difficulty has been experienced with water from springs, and this has been dealt with by mechanical pumping.

## Improvement Grants

Twenty applications were approved during the year, mainly for bathroom improvements and hot water supplies. These were mainly from owner-occupiers, and it is hoped that more landlords will take advantage of the grants available to modernise their properties, and provide tenants with the necessary standard amenities.

## Clean Air Act

Measuring instruments to assess the nature and degree of atmospheric pollution have been maintained at the Council's Depot, and daily readings taken. It is interesting to note that the concentrations of smoke/sulphur dioxide increased four to five times from the summer to the winter months; this is a good indication that a large proportion of these impurities originate from the domestic fire.

Following complaints of smoke nuisance in the Arthur Street-Spring Lane area, special instruments were sited to study the effects of the brickworks' chimney. From the information obtained, it was possible to determine that the height of the chimney should be increased by 20ft. This has now been done, and there is a marked improvement in conditions.

## Open-Air Bathing Pool

The Swimming Pool was opened on the 16th May and closed on the 20th September. The attendances, with comparisons for the two previous years are appended:—

			1959	1958	1957
Adults	...	...	14,246	4,731	8,327
Children	...	...	20,028	10,450	12,111
Spectators	...	...	9,340	4,820	5,012
Sundays	...	...	10,711	4,705	4,194

The application of break-point chlorination is still employed, and this has maintained the water at a very high standard throughout the entire season. The water is mechanically filtered continuously, but it was owing to a faulty valve necessary to close the Pool for a period of two days during August.

This was a particularly heavy year from the point of view of attendances owing to the continuously fine weather. Bacteriological analyses taken proved the water was satisfactory.

## Verminous Premises

During the year six verminous premises were dealt with. In each case disinfestations were carried out by the Department.

## Food and Food Premises

(a) *Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.*—Inspections of food premises continued throughout the year, although a systematic inspection was not possible due to pressure of other work. Notices were served where necessary, and invariably these were complied with.



(b) *Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1953.*—There were thirteen distributors of milk registered at the end of the year.

The following licences to sell Designated Milk were issued :—

*Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.*

Supplementary licences (Tuberculin Tested)	...	4
Dealers' licences (Tuberculin Tested)	... ..	4

*Milk (Specifial Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations, 1949.*

Supplementary licences (Pasteurised)	... ..	4
Dealers' licences (Pasteurised)	... ..	6

Two complaints of dirty bottles were investigated.

(c) *Ice Cream.*—Two premises have ceased to deal in ice cream and one has been added during the year. There are now forty-five premises on the register.

(d) *Meat and Meat Products.*—Slaughtering has been continued at two premises. All animals slaughtered are inspected. Every effort is made to keep the general standard in the slaughterhouses as high as possible. It will be appreciated that a large amount of time is devoted to meat inspection.

There have been 9 renewals to slaughter or stun animals under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 to 1954. The number of premises registered for the manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale is now 12.

(e) *Other Food Preparing Premises.*—Catering establishments have been visited, and the general standard is satisfactory.

### Unfit Food

The following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered as being unfit for human consumption :—

Soup	... ..	8 tins
Meat	... ..	20 tins
Vegetables	... ..	12 tins
Fruit	... ..	33 tins
Fish	... ..	9 tins

The goods were all destroyed on your refuse tip.

### Factories

The number of factories on the Register is 53, 51 being power factories and 1 non-power factory. Most of these premises are modern, and are well-maintained and hygienically quite satisfactory.

## **Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.**

The Agricultural Executive Committee discontinued their rodent control service in March, 1959; previously they dealt with the tip and held contracts with a number of farmers in the district.

In order to cope with the resulting increase in work, a full-time Rodent Operator was appointed. In addition to rodent control, his duties include any general public health work, and in particular house disinfection and daily treatment of the refuse tip for flies during the summer months.

By the end of the year 14 farm contracts had been acquired at a value of £121 per annum, and in addition there was a saving of £45, which was the annual sum paid to the Agricultural Executive Committee in respect of their services at the tip.

A complete survey of the district was made and treatments carried out where necessary. All reported infestations were dealt with promptly.

## **New Buildings**

- 253 Houses and Bungalows
- 29 Flats
- 8 Estate Layouts
- 324 Garages
- 7 Workshops and extensions
- 1 School and 4 extensions
- 10 New shop fronts
- 4 Conversions
- 7 Change of use
- 35 Alterations and additions
- 1 Filling station and 2 extensions
- 1 Caravan
- 1 Showroom and offices
- 1 Cricket pavilion
- 1 Industrial development.

**TABLE I.**  
**KENILWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.**  
**SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S**  
**DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR, 1959.**

				Inspections and observations made	Notices served and complied with					
					In-formal	In-formal abated	Formal	Formal abated		
GENERAL SANITATION.	{	Water Supply ... ..	...	13	—	—	—	—		
		Drainage ... ..	...	54	12	12	—	—		
		Stables and Piggeries ... ..	...	9	4	4	—	—		
		Fried Fish Shops ... ..	...	6	2	2	—	—		
		Tents, Vans and Sheds ... ..	...	44	6	6	1	1		
		Factories ... ..	...	61	7	7	—	—		
		Workplaces ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—		
		Bakehouses ... ..	...	9	2	1	—	—		
		Public Conveniences ... ..	...	1	—	—	—	—		
		Theatres and Places of Entertainment ... ..	...	2	—	—	—	—		
		Refuse Collection ... ..	...	81	17	17	—	—		
		Refuse Disposal ... ..	...	102	—	—	—	—		
		Rats and Mice ... ..	...	121	—	—	—	—		
HOUSING.	{	Miscellaneous ... ..	...	150	—	—	—	—		
		Knackers Yard ... ..	...	2	—	—	—	—		
		UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :								
		No. of houses inspected ...	...	50	28	23	—	—		
		Visits paid to above houses		86	—	—	—	—		
		UNDER HOUSING ACTS :								
		No. of houses inspected ...	...	38	16	14	—	—		
		Visits paid to above houses		56	—	—	—	—		
		UNDER RENT ACT, 1958 :								
		No. of houses inspected ...	...	6	—	—	2	2		
		Visits paid to above houses		8	—	—	—	—		
		VERMINOUS PREMISES :								
		No. of houses inspected ...	...	6	—	—	—	—		
		Visits paid to above houses		10	—	—	—	—		
		Applicants for Council Houses		8	—	—	—	—		
		MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION. I.D.P.	{	Inquiries in cases of I.D. ...	...	3	—	—	—	—
				Visits re Disinfection ... ..	...	3	—	—	—	—
				Miscellaneous infectious disease visits ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—
				INSPECTION OF MEAT :						
Visits to Slaughterhouses ...	...			462	—	—	—	—		
VISITS TO :										
Butchers ... ..	...			16	5	5	—	—		
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...			2	—	—	—	—		
Grocers ... ..	...			31	6	5	—	—		
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...			3	—	—	—	—		
Dairies and Milkshops ... ..	...			18	—	—	—	—		
Ice-cream Premises ... ..	...			34	—	—	—	—		
Restaurants ... ..	...			16	—	—	—	—		
Public Houses ... ..	...			4	—	—	—	—		
Miscellaneous Food visits ...	...			22	—	—	—	—		
				1537	105	96	3	3		

Quantity of Unsound Food Voluntary Surrendered ... ..	No.
Quantity of Unsound Meat Condemned... ..	106lbs.
Seizure of Unsound Food ... ..	3403lbs.
Samples of Ice-cream taken for Examination ... ..	—
Samples of Well Water taken for Examination ... ..	—

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE		
Houses disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease ... ..	—	
Schools disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease ... ..	—	
Lots of Bedding steam disinfected or destroyed ... ..	1	
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or things ... ..	—	
Convictions for Exposure of Infected Persons or things... ..	—	
Prosecutions for failure to notify existence of Notifiable Disease	—	
Convictions for failure to notify existence of Notifiable Disease	—	

G. A. J. EDMUNDSON,  
Public Health Inspector.



TABLE II.

## KENILWORTH URBAN DISTRICT

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1959  
AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Crude Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1950	10,550	148	14.0	2	13.0	94	8.9
1951	10,610	170	16.0	7	41.0	127	12.0
1952	10,710	177	16.5	3	17.0	144	13.4
1953	10,870	202	18.5	8	39.6	121	11.1
1954	11,110	180	16.2	6	33.3	102	9.2
1955	11,550	196	17.0	7	35.8	114	9.9
1956	12,200	231	19.0	6	25.9	103	8.5
1957	12,630	228	18.0	—	—	101	8.0
1958	13,020	199	15.3	3	15.0	120	9.2
1959	13,430	214	15.9	5	23.4	116	8.6

## VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1959.

## ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1959.**(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

			Live Births.	Still Births per 1,000 Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	...	...	16.5	20.9	11.6	22.2

TABLE III.

KENILWORTH URBAN DISTRICT

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING  
THE YEAR 1959.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox ... ..									
Plague ... ..									
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup) ... ..									
Erysipelas ... ..									
Scarlet Fever ... ..	7	3	3		1				
Typhus Fever ... ..									
Enteric Fever ... ..									
Pneumonia ... ..	1						1		
Malaria ... ..									
Dysentery ... ..	3	1		1			1		
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..									
Meningococcal Infection ... ..									
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis) ... ..									
Whooping Cough ... ..									
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..									
Measles ... ..	229	4	92	132	1				
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	11				3	4	2	2	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1					1			
Food Poisoning ... ..	1					1			
Totals ... ..	253	4	96	135	5	7	4	2	

TABLE IV.  
KENILWORTH URBAN DISTRICT  
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1959.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	—	1
2 Tuberculosis, other ... ..	—	—
3 Syphilitic disease... ..	—	—
4 Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
5 Whooping cough ... ..	—	—
6 Meningococcal infections ... ..	—	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—
8 Measles ... ..	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	3	—
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	7	1
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	3
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	1
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neo- plasms ... ..	6	9
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	—	—
16 Diabetes ... ..	—	—
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	5	7
18 Coronary disease, angina ... ..	16	9
19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	—	1
20 Other heart disease ... ..	3	9
21 Other circulatory disease ... ..	2	4
22 Influenza ... ..	—	—
23 Pneumonia ... ..	3	2
24 Bronchitis... ..	1	—
25 Other disease of respiratory system ...	—	1
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	—
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—
28 Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	—	—
29 Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	1	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—
31 Congenital malformations ... ..	1	—
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	7
33 Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	2	1
34 All other accidents ... ..	1	3
35 Suicide ... ..	2	—
36 Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—
All causes ... ..	57	59





